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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Lustig et al.

Group Art Unit: 1646

Serial No. 09/163,713

Examiner: Pak, M.

Filed: September 30, 1998

Attorney Docket No. T97-012-1

For: *Nuclear Hormone Receptor Drug
Screens*

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this corr is being deposited with the US Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Comm. of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on Dec 13, 2001.

Signed

Richard Osman

18/E
D.G.J
2/12/02RESPONSE

The Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Examiner Pak:

Thank you for the Office Action dated Sep. 25, 2001 Please enter these amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel the pending claims and add new claims 62-91 as follows:

62. An in vitro solid-phase binding assay method for characterizing an agent as a ligand of a nuclear hormone receptor, comprising steps:

incubating an in vitro mixture comprising a first, purified nuclear hormone receptor, a peptide sensor and a candidate agent, but not a natural coactivator protein of the first receptor, wherein the sensor consists of a peptide comprising the sequence $L_1X_1X_2L_2L_3$ (SEQ ID NO:18) covalently coupled to a detectable label, wherein L_1-L_3 are independently selected from hydrophobic amino acids and X_1-X_2 are independently selected from any amino acid and wherein the peptide provides direct, in vitro ligand-dependent binding to the first receptor and is 24 or fewer residues in length, under